

**GALLATIN LOCAL WATER QUALITY DISTRICT  
MEETING MINUTES  
February 14, 2008**

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Sherwin Leep, Chair  
Tim Ford, Vice-Chair  
Steve White, Secretary (9:45-9:55)  
CB Dormire – Co. Planning Board Liaison  
Mark Criner  
Kathy Gallagher  
Bill Hunt  
Kaaren Jacobsen

**GLWQD STAFF PRESENT:**

Alan English, Manager  
Tammy Crone, Water Quality Specialist  
Julie Lanham, Administrative Assistant  
Baker Lyon, Project Assistant

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT/EXCUSED**

Steve White, Secretary  
El Bennett  
Manhattan At-Large representative (vacant)

**PUBLIC AND GUESTS**

Tim Roark, Gallatin Co EH Dept  
Dave Richardson, Daily Chronicle

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Sherwin called the meeting to order at 8:18 a.m. New Board member Mark Criner, with the City of Belgrade, was introduced. Julie Lanham, GLWQD's new Administrative Assistant, was introduced. The Board extended their condolences to Alan for the death of his father-in-law.

**II. APPROVAL OF DECEMBER 2007 MEETING MINUTES**

The minutes of the December Board meeting were reviewed and discussed.

*Kathy made a motion to approve the December 2007 minutes as drafted. Kaaren seconded the motion. Motion passed as follows:*

**ROLL CALL**

Sherwin Leep – For  
Tim Ford – For  
Karen Jacobsen – For

Bill Hunt - For  
Mark Criner – For  
Kathy Gallagher – For

**III. PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment.

**IV. STAFF UPDATE**

Alan read through the Staff Update for the Board members.

Several applications have been received to date for the Water Quality Specialist position. This is a 1-year temporary appointment with full benefits. With this comes the option of extension to a two-year appointment. Tammy will be out of the office until March 10. She will be on vacation and then undergoing knee surgery. Board members were encouraged to stop and see the new office space that GLWQD now occupies in the Judge Guenther Memorial Center.

The portable electric generator that was purchased is being stored in a fenced area at the jail. A cover for it remains to be purchased. Alan reported there is nothing in the Board bylaws regarding a dollar amount for purchases needing Board approval, however the County guideline is that anything over \$1,000 is considered capital outlay and requires approval. This will be put on the agenda for discussion at the next board meeting.

The sample analysis screening of ground/surface water for pharmaceuticals (CIG grant) has been completed. The laboratory report from the DOA lab at MSU came back “non-detect,” however we are still waiting on the results from the EPA Region VIII laboratory. Getting them to complete the analysis has been problematic, and Alan will again attempt to reach someone there that will facilitate the process. Once results have been obtained a final report with recommendations will be prepared.

The RDGP contract is now active. It is for \$294,000 and is focused on collecting influent and effluent wastewater samples from different types of treatment plants, and collecting samples of ground and surface water; all samples will be analyzed for pharmaceuticals and other compounds that are known to be endocrine system disrupters. Kathy asked if GLWQD had a copy of the Helena study and Alan said we do. Energy Laboratories will run 800 samples, and Utility Solutions has agreed to cover the lab costs for the January samples.

The grant application for the Riparian Buffer Education Campaign was funded for \$120,000. The Flathead Conservation District will administer the campaign. PSAs distributed will consist of generic state-wide PSAS, and local-focused PSAs.

Funding has been secured for updating the Gallatin Watershed Sourcebook, and Tammy is currently updating her chapters.

Four more samplings have been approved for the Bozeman Creek Stormwater Demonstration Project. Samples collected should include runoff in March, and storm events in April, May, and June.

Water level monitoring for the network wells was completed in early January, and 43 of the 52 wells tested will be paid for by MBMG at \$18 per well. Town Pump may purchase the land in Four Corners where the Northstar monitoring well is located, and Alan contacted Barb Campbell regarding obtaining an easement.

The construction of a database for district ground water and surface water has been put on hold until ITS replaces the staff vacancy in their department left by Jon-Erick.

Alan will draft a letter regarding the Bozeman Solvent Site, on behalf of the Board, which will be reviewed at the next Board meeting and will then be taken to the Board of Health.

Kathy noted Sypes Canyon is not a water rich area. Alan suggested additional monitoring wells. Kathy also inquired about Summer Ridge. Alan indicated he has had difficulty getting a driller out to the site. Kathy suggested Dave Potts. We would also like to continue to monitor the fire pond well. Kathy mentioned that water levels continue to drop in both Summer Ridge and Spirit Hills.

The Logan Landfill is a known PCE contamination site. LWQD has agreed to do what we can to advise the County in the future, and will work with the landfill in the future. Five sites were tested, three on the landfill and two on private property, and PCP's were picked up on two of the sites.

Alan is currently reviewing the Preliminary Plat Application for the proposed subdivision of Gallatin River Ranch South. He will get his comments to Belgrade Planning and then to the commissioners.

Alan is still waiting for a response to the letter he drafted to DEQ Enforcement requesting they consider additional sampling of ground and surface water in the area of the Forest Park Wastewater Lagoon.

A fluoride fact sheet has been drafted. Once it is finalized staff will begin drafting an iron bacteria fact sheet.

Alan and Tammy located an unused irrigation well while inspecting the Bozeman Pond. Alan plans to see if the well would be available to use as a monitoring well.

#### **V. CONSIDERATION OF EXTENDING DISTRICT BOUNDARY TO INCLUDE BIG SKY AREA**

Alan said that Big Sky has again asked to become a part of the Gallatin Local Water Quality District. After discussion it was agreed that the boundaries should be expanded to include all of Gallatin County as there has been similar interest from other communities not currently in the boundaries of the LWQD. Alan will work with GIS to draw the new boundaries, and will begin to revise the workplan so that it clearly states what we will offer. Once this has been accomplished it will need to be presented to the commissioners for their approval, a protest period and follow-up hearing will need to occur.

***Tim made a motion that the Board directs Alan to put in motion steps to increase the boundaries of the Gallatin Local Water Quality District to include all of Gallatin County. Kathy seconded the motion. Motion passed as follows:***

#### **ROLL CALL**

Sherwin Leep – For  
Tim Ford – For  
Karen Jacobsen – For

Bill Hunt - For  
Mark Criner – For  
Kathy Gallagher – For

## **VI. DISCUSSION/APPROVAL OF LONG-TERM GROUND WATER MONITORING PLAN**

The draft of the long-term ground water monitoring plan was briefly discussed. The Board would like further time to review the document, and it will be further reviewed at the next meeting. Alan will be available to field questions in the meantime. Steve arrived and was there briefly during this discussion.

## **VII. RIVER ROCK AREA GROUND WATER ASSESSMENT PROJECT PROGRESS REPORT**

Alan indicated this project is progressing. Opportunity to get out and take samples has been somewhat limited recently with weather related issues and Alan being out-of-town with the death of his father-in-law. He and Baker went out yesterday to take samples, however they had car issues affecting the ability to run the pump via the car battery. Five to six sites have been identified for isotope, nitrate, and pharmaceutical analysis. At least 30 homeowners have signed up to participate in well sampling, and another 20 sites have historical data. It is possible the Helena DEQ may have additional data.

The engineer for TD&H has been given permission from one of the landowners in the Wildhorse Trails subdivision to install a ground water monitoring well below the River Rock system. He gave Alan a quote of \$1700 to survey four other well-head areas.

*Kathy made a motion to authorize Alan to spend \$1,700 to have four additional well sites surveyed. Sherwin seconded the motion. Motion passed as follows:*

<b>ROLL CALL</b>	Sherwin Leep – For	Bill Hunt - For
	Tim Ford – For	Mark Criner – For
	Karen Jacobsen – For	Kathy Gallagher – For

## **VIII. DISCUSSION/APPROVAL OF DRAFT BOZEMAN SOLVENT SITE ACTION REQUEST LETTER**

This item was discussed during staff update.

## **IX. DISCUSSION/APPROVAL OF DRAFT POLICY ON PUBLIC ACCESS TO PRIVATE WELL DATA**

Alan's draft policy was reviewed and discussed. Several sources, such as Missoula and Helena water districts and the Gallatin County Health Department, were contacted regarding how they handle public access to private data. Kathy asked if we should add a disclaimer regarding when we have raw data only, when it has not been verified (re-sampled), and how might be the best way to handle such instances. CB suggested a form to sign acknowledging receipt of such data, Kathy suggested adding a column to the database denoting where the information came from so as to know it's raw vs. verified. Alan will continue to work on this to see what he can come up with, and it will be discussed further at the next Board meeting.

## **X. DNRC-RDGP PHARMACEUTICAL SAMPLE PROJECT UPDATE**

A Memorandum of Understanding between GLWQD and Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology has been drafted. Technicalities regarding the contract and money are in place. We plan to begin with River Rock. Alan will meet with MBMG next week regarding sample site projection.

## **XI. OTHER BUSINESS**

Alan will be out of the office April 20 through May 11.

Alan will follow-up with Steve regarding the issue of access to public property.

Tim suggested there be less time at Board meetings spent on staff update and more time spent on agenda items. This will be discussed further at the next Board meeting, however Alan will try to have the staff update to the board the Friday before the meeting with the intention that the Board will have time to thoroughly review the staff update and the time spent discussing staff update at the meeting will be limited to Board questions.

No other business was discussed. The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

## **XII. AGENDA OF NEXT MEETING**

Staff Update  
Extension of District Boundaries  
Long-Term Ground Water Monitoring Plan  
Bozeman Solvent Site Draft Letter  
Policy On Public Access To Data  
Policy for Staff Spending Authorization

Respectfully Submitted,

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Sherwin Leep, Vice Chair

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Steve White, Secretary

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Alan English, District Manager

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date